

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MILAN 00440 141744Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----150047Z 026419 /66
R 111400Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5286
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 0440

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: DARK POLITICAL SCENE AND US THREAT.

SUMMARY: DURING DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANCE CORRIERE STAFF CHANGES REPORTED SEPARATELY, INFLUENTIAL EDITOR ITALY'S MAJOR CONSERVATIVE DAILY, IL GIORNALE, CENTER RIGHT, INDRO MONTANELLI, SKETCHED GRIM VISION OF ITALIAN SITUATION AFTER PARLIAMENT VOTE INDICTING GUI AND TANASSI AND FORESAW DANGEROUS US ROLE.

1. MONTANELLI WAS FIT TO BE TIED WHEN CONGEN MET HIM MARCH 11. VOTE BY PARLIAMENT TO INDICT GUI WAS MAJOR COMMUNIST VICTORY IN HIS VIEW AND DUE TO DIVISIONS IN DC. MONTANELLI HAD LITTLE USE FOR DC BUT IT WAS ONLY REMAINING BARRIER TO COMMUNISTS IN ITALY. NO ONE, HE RAGED, THOUGHT GUI WAS GUILTY, ESPECIALLY NOT COMMUNISTS. INDICTMENT WAS PCI MANEUVER TO PLLORY# ENTIRE DC. AND IT HAD SUCCEEDED. NO MATTER WHAT OUTCOME OF TRIAL BEFORE COURT, DC HAD BEEN DEALT NEW BLOW. AS FOR TANASSI, HE MIGHT WELL BE GUILTY.

2. MAIN QUESTION, HE THUNDERED, WAS WHO IN DC WAS TO BLAME FOR INDICTMENT? PICCOLI HAD PROPOSED DC ABSTENTION THAT WOULD HAVE MADE PARTY DEFECTIONS AND THEREFORE INDICTMENT IMPOSSIBLE. WHY WAS THAT APPROACHED SABOTAGED?

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3. MORO HAD MADE MAJOR POLITICAL COMMITMENT WITH FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS AND OPPOSED BY ANDREOTTI. HIS DEFENSE OF GUI WAS ATTACK ON DE FACTO ALLIANCE WITH PCI. NOW HE HAD BEEN DEFEATED. DID MORO HAVE THE POWER TO TOPPLE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT AFTER PCI HAD DEALT DC SUCH A BLOW? MONTANELLI COULDN'T ANSWER HIS OWN QUESTION, BUT POINTED TO THIS AS KEY ISSUE THE MORNING

AFTER.

4. SHOULD MORO PROVOKE A CABINET CRISIS, MONTANELLI FORESAW NEW NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN WHICH DC JUST MIGHT EMERGE WITH ABSOLUTE MAJORITY. THAT POSSIBLE BECAUSE MINOR CENTER PARTIES WOULD BE SUCKED UP INTO DC AS WOULD PARTS OF FAR RIGHT. COMMUNISTS WERE NO LONGER PROGRESSING. MOREOVER, DC WOULD BE ABLE COUNT ON MAJOR RESEVOIR OF EMIGRANT VOTES NOT PREVIOUSLY TAPPED. PCI COULD HARDLY OPPOSE ENFRANCHISING THESE VOTERS DESPITE ITS KNOWING DC WOULD BE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARY.

5. ALL THIS WAS BAD ENOUGH, HE CONTINUED, BUT HIS EVEN GREATER FEAR WAS US. WORD FROM HIS CONTACTS IN THE US WAS THAT NEW US AMBASSADOR WOULD OPEN DOOR TO PCI ENTRANCE TO GOVERNMENT. HE WAS NEW MAN BEING SENT TO INAUGERATE NEW PHASE OF US RELATIONS WITH ITALIAN COMMUNISTS THAT WOULD SANCTION HISTORIC COMPROMISE. YOU AMERICANS, HE WARNED, WILL FIND THE COMMUNISTS GREAT PRAGMATISTS, WELL PREPARED AND CHARMING. THEY WILL APPEAL TO YOUR PRACTICAL SENSES, AND

THEY WILL KNOW HOW TO COURT YOU IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN ROME. AND WHEN COMMUNISTS ENTER ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, HE SAID GRIMLY AND IN MEASURED WORDS, IT WILL BE WITH US APPROVAL. OTHERWISE, THEY WILL NEVER MAKE IT.

6. IT'S BAD ENOUGH, HE CONCLUDED BITTERLY, TO HAVE ITALIAN DEMOCRACY SADDLED WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. DO WE DESERVE TO HAVE THE AMERICANS HELPING THE COMMUNISTS TOO?

7. FROM THIS STRONGLY HELD CONVINCTION, NO ARGUMENT OR DISAGREEMENT COULD BUDGE HIM.WAYMAN

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NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBATES, CORRUPTION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, ALLEGATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MILAN00440
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770087-0864
Format: TEL
From: MILAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770369/aaaaciun.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 58cabab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3136594
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DARK POLITICAL SCENE AND US THREAT. SUMMARY: DURING DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANCE CORRIERE STAFF CHANGES REPORTED SEPARATELY. INFLUENTIAL EDITOR ITALY' S MA
TAGS: PINT, IT, LOCKHEED, (TANASSI, MARIO), (GUI, LUIGI)
To: STATE ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58cabab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009